

From: ["Thomas. Hattie" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE>](mailto:Thomas.Hattie@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE)  
To:  
CC:  
Date: 12/2/2013 3:38:03 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 12/2/13

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## OPA Daily Digest for 12/2/13

### Congressional Inquiries:

**Rep. Emanuel Cleaver** (Mo.) 10/29/13. Recommendation for an EPA position. Due: 11/13/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

### State Government Inquiries:

None

### Press Inquiries:

**Scrapps** - Mark Greenblatt – 11/22/13 – (Phase III) Follow-up questions regarding the status of the Doe Run consent agreement. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

### Environmental Stories:

**Brownfield Ag News - Working with farmers to protect air, water and land** (audio) - 11/28/13 - Karl Brooks is Region 7 Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency serving Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska. He says “we try to work with agricultural producers so that what they do to grow their crops and support their communities supports our objective to protect clean air, clean water and healthy landscapes.” <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/11/28/working-farmers-protect-air-water-land/>

**Sioux City Journal (Iowa): Our Opinion: EPA plan to reduce RFS requirements: Misguided** - 12/2/13 - Regardless of political party or philosophical differences on other issues, leaders in states like Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska must stake out common ground together in spirited opposition to the EPA proposal on the RFS and work to reverse what is a misguided plan. [http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/opinion/editorial/our-opinion-epa-plan-to-reduce-rfs-requirements-misguided/article\\_9d5985e5-bb32-5cd4-9e3e-7b89cb52a63e.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/opinion/editorial/our-opinion-epa-plan-to-reduce-rfs-requirements-misguided/article_9d5985e5-bb32-5cd4-9e3e-7b89cb52a63e.html)

**AgWeb - EPA Succumbs to Pressure to Reduce Ethanol Mandate** - 11/30/13 - Critics who have been taking shots at the national ethanol mandate finally got their way this month when the federal government reduced the amount of ethanol that gasoline producers must purchase next year. [http://www.agweb.com/article/epa\\_succumbs\\_to\\_pressure\\_to\\_reduce\\_ethanol\\_mandate\\_NAA\\_Boyce\\_Thompson/](http://www.agweb.com/article/epa_succumbs_to_pressure_to_reduce_ethanol_mandate_NAA_Boyce_Thompson/)

**Reuters - Ethanol cut may drive down U.S. corn prices, drive up subsidies** - 12/1/13 - The U.S. government in recent years has not needed to prop up grain farmers' income with subsidies, but those payments could come roaring back if the lower ethanol mandate proposed this month drives corn prices lower, as many analysts expect. <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/cattle-news/234010101.html>

**Oil & Gas Journal - The RFS greenwash** - 12/2/13 - As the country begins to tackle the climate issue, it must approach the challenge in a rational, scientifically sound manner. Scrapping the RFS and going back to the drawing boards on fuels and carbon is a good place to start. <http://www.ogj.com/articles/print/volume-111/issue-12/regular-features/letter/the-rfs-greenwash.html>

**Sioux City Journal (Iowa): From Food to Fuel | Ethanol: The pluses and minuses of Iowa's chief fuel contribution** - 12/1/13 - The Associated Press recently published a report about the environmental damage wrought by ethanol. Today in the Journal, we've included a companion piece that allowed ethanol defenders to present their side of the issue. What do you think? [http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/ethanol-the-pluses-and-minuses-of-iowa-s-chief-fuel/article\\_f3d1b79a-16ba-5c11-b7ad-f29c62f78b9c.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/ethanol-the-pluses-and-minuses-of-iowa-s-chief-fuel/article_f3d1b79a-16ba-5c11-b7ad-f29c62f78b9c.html)

**Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Ethanol's rise can mean loss of hunting lands** - 12/1/13 - The native grasslands and milo crops that used to dot surrounding Jefferson County have been overtaken by corn and soy crops. Neither provides the shelter that wildlife once enjoyed. [http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/ethanol-s-rise-can-mean-loss-of-hunting-lands/article\\_225359e5-b262-5504-ab2f-9214f23c18b2.html](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/ethanol-s-rise-can-mean-loss-of-hunting-lands/article_225359e5-b262-5504-ab2f-9214f23c18b2.html)

**Des Moines Register - EPA begins accepting comments on federal renewable fuels standard** - 11/29/13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin taking comments on a proposal to scale back the ethanol and biodiesel that must be blended into the U.S. fuel supply. The federal agency will take public comments until Jan. 28. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/11/29/epa-begins-accepting-comments-on-federal-renewable-fuels-standard/>

**Quad-City Times - Crews conduct tests to see when sunken towboat can be raised** - 12/2/13 - The towboat that sunk in LeClaire was lifted partially from the water late Sunday afternoon during tests to determine when the vessel can be lifted completely from the Mississippi River. [http://qctimes.com/news/local/crews-conduct-tests-to-see-when-sunken-towboat-can-be/article\\_1d061317-4905-593b-b586-8b46aded69da.html](http://qctimes.com/news/local/crews-conduct-tests-to-see-when-sunken-towboat-can-be/article_1d061317-4905-593b-b586-8b46aded69da.html)

**Quad City Times - Sunken towboat to be lifted this week** - 11/30/13 - A sunken towboat in LeClaire will be raised from the water as early as Tuesday as efforts to clean up thousands of gallons of spilled oil and diesel fuel came to an end Saturday, officials at the scene said. [http://qctimes.com/news/local/sunken-towboat-to-be-lifted-this-week/article\\_0d6986e3-bb1f-5f95-a6e3-074b4f73fc33.html](http://qctimes.com/news/local/sunken-towboat-to-be-lifted-this-week/article_0d6986e3-bb1f-5f95-a6e3-074b4f73fc33.html)

**Quad-City Times - Work continues to soak up oil from towboat spill** - 11/30/13 - Work continued Saturday on the Mississippi River at LeClaire to contain oil and diesel fuel spilled from a partially sunken towboat, rescue wildlife and begin the process of removing the boat from the river. [http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/work-continues-to-soak-up-oil-from-towboat-spill/article\\_75752527-f498-5fa1-a1ac-cbab89846f63.html](http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/work-continues-to-soak-up-oil-from-towboat-spill/article_75752527-f498-5fa1-a1ac-cbab89846f63.html)

**Lincoln Journal-Star - Editorial: Irrigators aided own cause** - 12/2/13 - The official state goal of keeping groundwater usage in Nebraska at sustainable levels seems within reach as long as rain continues to fall at historical averages. [http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/editorial-irrigators-aided-own-cause/article\\_01ebb1f6-264b-5ede-96f0-adb0b4b0b688.html](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/editorial-irrigators-aided-own-cause/article_01ebb1f6-264b-5ede-96f0-adb0b4b0b688.html)

**Cedar Rapids Gazette (Iowa) - University of Iowa now burning 'opportunity fuel' in power plant** - 11/30/13 - As part of the UI's biomass fuel project, the trees were collected, mulched and turned into a blended fuel that now can be used in the UI's main power plant. - See more at: <http://thegazette.com/2013/11/30/university-of-iowa-now-burning-opportunity-fuel-in-power-plant/#sthash.my6i85NN.dpuf>

**Quad-City Times - Damaged trees fuel University of Iowa power plant** - 11/30/13 - A September storm that toppled dozens of trees at a recreation area north of Iowa City provided the University of Iowa with tons of fuel for its power plant, university officials said. [http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/damaged-trees-fuel-university-of-iowa-power-plant/article\\_751a95d2-d785-57c8-b29d-2c1c614caf17.html](http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/damaged-trees-fuel-university-of-iowa-power-plant/article_751a95d2-d785-57c8-b29d-2c1c614caf17.html)

**News-Leader, Springfield, Mo. - New Springfield school to use less energy** - 11/30/13 - The Springfield school board recently gave the go-ahead for architects and engineers to design a 450-student building at 2524 S. Golden Ave. that dramatically reduces energy usage. <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20131201/NEWS01/312010033/1264/>

**Quad-City Times - Iowa wind industry faces threat** - 12/1/13 - Tax breaks for wind-power producers are set to expire in a little more than a month, threatening hundreds of manufacturing and energy jobs in the state if nothing is done. [http://qctimes.com/news/local/government-and-politics/iowa-wind-industry-faces-threat/article\\_397090f6-c3a2-5240-](http://qctimes.com/news/local/government-and-politics/iowa-wind-industry-faces-threat/article_397090f6-c3a2-5240-)

[ad8e-99e07ff8536d.html](http://ad8e-99e07ff8536d.html)

**Quad-City Times - Water projects on target in Columbus Junction** - 12/1/13 - Water projects continue to progress well in Columbus Junction, the City Council was told at its most recent meeting. [http://qctimes.com/news/local/water-projects-on-target-in-columbus-junction/article\\_376e5569-5489-533f-be8b-7044eb0b6823.html](http://qctimes.com/news/local/water-projects-on-target-in-columbus-junction/article_376e5569-5489-533f-be8b-7044eb0b6823.html)

**Associated Press - Kansas aqueduct project faces challenges** - 11/30/13 - Aside from the potentially billions of dollars it could cost to divert water from the Missouri River to western Kansas, the negotiations among interested parties would make such an infrastructure project a daunting task. <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/30/4660024/kansas-aqueduct-project-faces.html>

**Associated Press - Experts clash on aging farmers** - 11/30/13 - Agriculture economists have long warned that farmers are getting old and staying on their land longer, delaying the turnover to a younger generation. But an Ohio State University professor argues that those fears are overstated. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20131201/NEWS/312010071/Experts-clash-aging-farmers>

**Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Wind farm is no-go — at least for now** - 11/30/13 - TradeWind Energy Inc. of Lenexa, Kan., had hoped to begin construction on the Rattlesnake Creek Wind Project but was unable to secure a commitment from a large power company to buy electricity generated by the project. [http://journalstar.com/legislature/wind-farm-is-no-go-at-least-for-now/article\\_ed1d47cd-65aa-579b-98c4-c83a4e6c22d2.html](http://journalstar.com/legislature/wind-farm-is-no-go-at-least-for-now/article_ed1d47cd-65aa-579b-98c4-c83a4e6c22d2.html)

**Associated Press - Environmental Trust sees uptick in grant apps** - 11/27/13 - A Nebraska agency that awards grants for environmental projects is seeing a record number of requests as federal and state funding sources dwindle. [http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/environmental-trust-sees-uptick-in-grant-apps/article\\_c75af6af-4028-5bb9-b841-3278ebffae7.html](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/environmental-trust-sees-uptick-in-grant-apps/article_c75af6af-4028-5bb9-b841-3278ebffae7.html)

**Huffington Post - EPA Administrator: Progress in Communities: EPA's Enduring Commitment** - 12/2/13 - We've taken tremendous steps forward since EPA got its start. However, from air and water quality to chemical safety and climate change, plenty of challenges still remain. With continued local focus and partnership, we can meet them head on and continue to achieve environmental and public health progress in communities across the country. : [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gina-mccarthy/progress-in-communities-e\\_b\\_4371888.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gina-mccarthy/progress-in-communities-e_b_4371888.html)

**ClimateWire - Growing perennial grasses with corn has benefits, but financial losses are likely -- study** - 11/27/13 - Mixing biofuel-making grasses within cornfields could drastically reduce the environmental impacts often associated with growing the crop, but the economic benefits are less clear-cut, a recent study has found. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059991085>

**Environmental Health Perspectives - Small Changes, Big Impact: Exposure to Air Pollution and Reduced Lung Function in Children** - 12/1/13 - Epidemiological studies suggest that outdoor air pollution adversely affects children's lung function, which may not only harm their health now but also increase their susceptibility to respiratory and cardiovascular disease in adulthood. <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/121-a341/>

**Environmental Health Perspectives - Urban Gardening: Managing the Risks of Contaminated Soil** - 12/1/13 - Author Rebecca Kessler discusses the difficulties and uncertainties of cleaning up dirty urban soil and establishing urban gardening. <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/121-a326/>

**ClimateWire - Developing rules to stop erosion of U.S. wetlands** - 12/2/13 - The United States has some of the largest blue carbon systems in the world, but their rapid conversion for agriculture and real estate development is a major source of emissions. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059991115/>

**Environmental Leader - Sourcing Sufficient Quantities 'Major Concern' for E-Waste Reuse** - 12/2/13 - Two of the biggest barriers for organizations refurbishing e-waste are the availability of sufficient quantities of good quality used equipment and a lack of legislation that encourages or enforces reuse, according to a survey of reuse organizations. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/12/02/sourcing-sufficient-quantities-major-concern-for-e-waste-reuse/>

**Environmental Protection Online - What's At Stake in Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA** - 12/1/13 - A key test of EPA's authority to regulate green house gas emissions in

stationary sources is taking place with oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 24, 2014. <http://eponline.com/articles/2013/12/01/peeling-the-litigation-onion.aspx>

**Environmental Protection Online - Drinking Water Providers Getting the Lead Out** - 12/1/13 - On Jan. 4, 2014, the federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act (Reduction Act) takes effect in the United States. The Reduction Act amends the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to reduce the amount of lead in drinking water. <http://eponline.com/articles/2013/12/01/lead-reduction-water-act.aspx>

**Greenwire - White House releases agenda for hundreds of new rules** - 11/27/13 - Federal agencies have a packed schedule for the coming year that includes expected rules targeting greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, tightening control over hydraulic fracturing on public lands and updating efficiency requirements on a variety of appliances, according to a sweeping plan released by the White House today. [http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059991107/climate\\_digest](http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059991107/climate_digest)

### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**12/3/13** – SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference, Washington DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

**12/5/13** – RA Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**12/9/13** – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

**\*12/10/13** – EJ Small Grant Event, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Brendan Corrazin, 7429

**12/16/13** – Westlake Landfill Community Advisory Group Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Debbie Kring, 7725

**12/16/13** – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

**12/18/13** – Missouri Agribusiness Association Annual Convention, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**12/19/13** – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

### **DRA:**

**12/5-6/13** – Executive Management Council, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

**12/9/13** – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

**12/19/13** – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

#### **RA/Immediate Office**

None

#### **Other Events**

#### **AWMD**

**12/12/2013** – Attending outreach session with Iowa Utilities on Carbon Pollution Standards, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

#### **CNSL**

None

#### **ECO/EJ**

**12/4-6/13** – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: DeAndré Singletary, 7373

#### **ENSV**

None

#### **PLMG**

None

#### **RA/OPA**

[\\*12/16/13](#) – Westlake Landfill Community Advisory Group Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Debbie Kring, 7725

#### **SUPR**

None

#### **WWPD**

**12/3-4/13** - SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference, Washington DC. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**12/10-11/13** – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Set-Aside Review / Public Water System Supervision meeting, Des Moines, [Iowa](#). Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**12/10-11/13** – University of Iowa Extreme Weather Conference, Des Moines, [Iowa](#). Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

**12/16/13** – Environmental Protection Agency / Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Public Water System Supervision meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**12/18/13** – Area Wide Drinking Water Optimization meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

Hattie L. Thomas

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